UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/49/L.14
14 November 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-ninth session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 12

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Belarus, Czech Republic, Finland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovenia and United States of America: draft resolution

Modalities of reporting in the economic, social and related fields

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993, 48/222 of 23 December 1993, 47/202 of 22 December 1992 and other relevant resolutions,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on modalities of reporting in the economic, social and related fields, 1/

Deploring the fact that, despite Economic and Social Council decision 1990/272 of 27 July 1990, in which the Council endorsed the recommendations of the task force on documentation, 2/ documents are not being submitted in time or within the recommended page limits,

Recognizing that the members of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies contribute directly to the large volume of documentation through their requests for reports and can therefore improve the situation by exercising greater restraint in making such requests,

1. Adopts the following measures for the control and limitation of documentation:

1/ E/1994/88.

2/ E/1990/93.

94-44805 (E) 151194 151194

(a) Documents originating in the Secretariat for submission to the Economic and Social Council or its subsidiary bodies should not generally exceed sixteen single-spaced pages, except in exceptional cases, such as non-recurrent comprehensive reports on issues that are not routinely addressed;

(b) In order to keep the reports of the functional commissions and other subsidiary bodies of the Council as close as possible to a limit of thirty-two single-spaced pages, such reports should include only the following:

(i) Draft resolutions and draft decisions recommended for adoption by the Council;

(ii) Summaries and conclusions;

(iii) Details of voting, where appropriate;

(iv) Decisions relevant to a subsidiary body's own activities and procedures that do not require action by the Council;

(v) Organization of work;

(c) The Secretariat is requested to ensure that documentation is available, in each of the official languages of the United Nations, in accordance with the six-week rule for the distribution of documents;

(d) The Secretariat is also requested, when a legislative mandate requesting documentation is adopted, to indicate whether that documentation can be prepared in accordance with the six-week rule and within existing staff and financial resources and, if not, to indicate the time and costs involved through the preparation of a statement of programme budget implications;

(e) The members of the Council and its subsidiary bodies are urged to exercise restraint in making proposals that contain requests for reports, and to consider the possibility of biennializing or triennializing resolutions in which reports are requested;

(f) The Secretariat is encouraged to implement the following specific reporting procedures:

(i) To present oral rather than written reports, where appropriate and when no action is required by the Council or its subsidiary bodies, particularly in the case of progress reports and reports that are prepared annually;

(ii) To submit single consolidated reports of the Secretary-General on related topics under a single item or sub-item of the agenda, the page limit for such reports, which cover more than a single legislative mandate, to be twenty-four single-spaced pages;

(iii) To include in reports for submission to the Council or its subsidiary bodies a specific section containing issues for discussion;

(g) The production of addenda to documents that originate in the Secretariat for submission to the Council or its subsidiary bodies should be strictly limited to what is requested in the legislative mandate;

(h) The Secretariat is further requested to compile for the Council and for each of its subsidiary bodies a list of documents mandated in resolutions to be adopted at a given session, and to include in the report on the status of documentation for a given session a list of reports already mandated for the forthcoming session; in addition, the Secretariat should provide information on the meetings of intergovernmental bodies that are approved at a given session and on the projected documentation requirements;

(i) The Secretariat is also requested to identify areas in which joint or common reporting to intergovernmental bodies can be undertaken;

(j) The Secretary-General is requested to recommend to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session that it further examine ways and means of enhancing the Assembly's modalities of reporting in the economic, social and related fields, in view of the experience of the Economic and Social Council in implementing the present resolution.